



## *Council meeting Jan. 8, 2024*

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Eric Dailey, Doug Koestel, Tommy Buchanan, Sally Brown and Sharon Johnson; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Thomas Mitchell, Brian Dempsey

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Jerry Johnson, Scott and Sue Morgan, Paul Brown, Brande Lelle, Rob Chewning, Dan Wages, Mason Orr and Mark Beatty with the NEGA Regional Development Center

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. with Attorney Brian Dempsey swearing in the new Mayor, Chris Lelle, and new council members, Sharon Johnson and Sally Brown. Mayor Lelle led the Pledge of Allegiance, then opened business with the public hearing on the adoption of the UDC and zoning map.

Sue Morgan spoke to the council about code violations she felt the town should enforce. Dan Wages also spoke to the council about the matter.

At 7:26 the public hearing was closed and the regular meeting began with a motion to approve the December minutes made by Doug Koestel. Sharon Johnson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

Mark Beatty with the NEGA Regional Development center spoke about the zoning map he had been working on for Bethlehem. The map had not been updated since 2008 and several issues were found. Beatty said he would work to correct the issues by the next meeting.

Sally Brown made a motion to extend the development moratorium and with a second by Sharon Johnson, the motion was passed unanimously.

The new CPA terms were presented. The new owners, Acuff Financial Services, said to do bookkeeping with audit adjustments including fund accounting for government entities would be \$500 a month and payroll services would be billed separately: \$60 biweekly plus a \$2 a check/direct deposit.

Sally Brown made a motion to approve the terms and with a second by Sharon Johnson, the motion was passed unanimously.

The council looked over the purchasing policy presented by the clerk at the behest of the auditor. The policy was tabled for further consideration.

The Mayor asked for a council/mayor retreat on Jan. 20. The time was set for 2:30 at the Wimberly Center in Winder. He also asked that the council have work sessions on the fourth Monday of each month prior to the monthly meeting.

The council looked over the business license list from 2023.

The Mayor asked for a nomination for a Mayor Pro-Tem and Tommy Buchanan nominated Sharon Johnson. Brown, Dailey and Buchanan voted for and Koestel against.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 with a motion by Sally Brown.